

MIAMI-DADE COMMISSION ON ETHICS AND PUBLIC TRUST  
MEETING SUMMARY

JULY 9, 2003

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Opinions

03-92: County employee Caballero, who works for the Housing Agency as a Real Estate Officer, may reactivate his real estate license, but he may not engage in any real estate transactions with the Housing Agency or disclose confidential information acquired by way of his County position for personal gain.

03-94: Gilbert Sandler, who is member of firm which has been retained by the County to provide lobbying activities in Washington, D.C., may serve as a member of the county's International Trade Consortium due to the fact his firm's contract is with the Office of Intergovernmental Affairs and the International Trade Consortium has no authority over the Office of Intergovernmental Affairs.

03-95: County employee Castillo, who works for the Department of Business Development as a Contract Compliance Officer, has no conflict relating to his brother's ownership in a company seeking certification by the Department of Business Development, but in the interest of minimizing the appearance or impropriety, Castillo should delegate any contract monitoring and compliance duties which relates to his brother's company.

03-98: Marta Perez, an announced candidate for County Mayor, may not loan her campaign an amount in excess of twenty-five thousand dollars prior to seeking public financing. Due to the fact Dr. Perez has already loaned her campaign an amount in excess of \$25,000, she will have a reasonable period of time to return the proceeds of the loan greater than \$25,000 to retain her eligibility for public financing of her mayoral campaign. The Commission on Ethics will establish the deadline for the Perez campaign to remain eligible for these funds at its next meeting.

03-100: Jackson Memorial Hospital employee Hampden, who is the Manager of Employee Activities in the Human Resources Division and volunteered to help a restaurant serve food at an employee picnic, is not prohibited from accepting a catered lunch from that restaurant in appreciation for his volunteer efforts. If the value of the catered lunch should exceed twenty-five dollars, the employee would be required to file a gift disclosure form.

03-104: County Commissioner Sorenson's spouse, a physician who is a member of an association which wishes to enter into a memorandum of

understanding with the Public Health Trust to provide indigent medical care at Jackson South Community Hospital, may enter into such an arrangement because the Conflict of Interest and Code of Ethics Ordinance permits county commissioners and their immediate family to contract with the Public Health Trust. In the event this contract were to be reviewed by the Board of County Commissioners, Commissioner Sorenson would be prohibited from participating in or voting on this matter.

03-108: Mike Rodriguez, with the firm of Rodriguez Architects, who has personally complied with the state financial disclosure requirements when he was appointed to the State Board of Architecture and Design, is required to file a separate financial disclosure form with the County due to the fact his firm provides professional services to the County and the financial information provided by the firm will differ from the information provided by the principal.

## Complaints

02-42: The Ethics Commission found no probable cause and dismissed the complaint filed against Craig Smith.

03-08: Complaint against city of Miami Beach Building Inspector Goodkin was dismissed for lack of probable cause because Goodkin had a legitimate basis for issuing a Cease and Desist Order against an unlicensed contractor who was doing work on Miami Beach.

03-10: Barry Katz, who is engaged in the business of buying and selling of tax certificates in Miami-Dade and regularly dealt with employees of the Tax Collector's office, plead no contest to the allegation he gave gifts to a county employee in violation of county law. The Ethics Commission accepted the settlement agreement in which Respondent Katz agreed to pay a fine of \$250 and investigative costs of \$1,300.

03-15: The Ethics Commission found probable cause, authorized a letter of instruction to be issued and dismissed the complaint against John Julien, who was a candidate for North Miami Beach City Council and signed the Voluntary Statement of Fair Campaign Practices, when he permitted the use of innuendoes about his opponent's personal life that appeared in a flyer distributed by a third party.

The Ethics Commission dismissed the same complaint against the other parties, including Jeffrey Mischon, Raymond Marin and Carol Marin because they were

not candidates for the Group 2 council seat that complainant sought to capture. Moreover, the Ethics Commission found that the complaint against Mishcon and the Marins was groundless and will impose a penalty against the complainant. Complainant will have the right to appeal the imposition of a penalty at the Commission's next meeting.

03-19: The Commission found probable cause, authorized a letter of instruction to be issued, dismissed the complaint because Respondent's actions were inadvertent and assessed administrative costs of \$400 against Steven Stepner when he attempted to lobby a member of Community Council #9 in a private meeting regarding a zoning change without registering and when he addressed Community Council #9 in a public meeting without registering relative to the same matter.

03-20: The Ethics Commission approved the agreed order between the Commission and Harold Rosen and dismissed the complaint.

03-22: The Commission dismissed the complaint against Harvey Ruvin, Clerk of the Court, for lack of legal sufficiency.